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SYMPOSIUM ON MALARIA

**Introduction\***

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**M**ALARIA, as on innumerable occasions in history, is at present re-emerging as an unconquered foe of primary importance to physicians, politicians, soldiers, generals, and persons of *all* levels in *all* nations of the world. The impact of resistant malaria affects America, for example, not merely in the highlands of Vietnam, where more troops are invalidated by plasmodia than by battle wounds, but in this country where relapses are occurring increasingly after a victim's discharge from the armed forces.

This has posed new and urgent challenges for civilian clinicians, public health workers, laboratory technicians, blood-bank directors, and many others across the land. An ever-growing number of tourists and businessmen are traveling from the United States to malarious areas, and the physician of 1969 must be able not only to advise his

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patient on antimalarial prophylaxis but must be attuned to the possibility of malaria in its myriad clinical patterns.

For this fourth in the series of *Symposia in Clinical Tropical Medicine* we are exceedingly fortunate that distinguished malariologists have been able to come from many areas and busy schedules to participate. L. J. Bruce-Chwatt was chief of the malaria research and development section of the World Health Organization before assuming his new position as director of the Ross Institute in London, England. His philosophic and historic review of *Malaria Eradication at the Crossroads* is therefore a uniquely informed presentation of a crucial decision that will affect future generations of mankind. Paul Russell, this country's senior malariologist, comments succinctly and perceptively on Dr. Bruce-Chwatt's paper. George Fisher's epidemiologic analysis of malaria in the United States details the problem here, while Irving Kagan's comprehensive survey of serologic tests to ease the diagnosis of malaria adumbrates a feasible approach for laboratories in the future.

The clinical complications of malaria are presented by three leading experts: Brian Maegraith from Liverpool, England, and Harry Most and Craig Canfield of this country. The present prophylactic and therapeutic approaches to malaria are detailed by John Arnold and Peter G. Contacos. Most of these men then contribute their experience and thoughts to a wide-ranging discussion of particular problems in the clinical management of a disease that has been a scourge since the dawn of mankind, is intertwined with the history of nations, with the rise and fall of civilizations, and is with us again as a significant medical problem in America today.